

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA et al.)

- AGAINST -)

ARAKI, SADA0, et al.)

A F F I D A V I T

I, SHIDEHARA, Kijuro, make oath and say as follows:

I am now Minister without Portfolio in the present YOSHIDA Cabinet. Prior to this I was Prime Minister of Japan.

I was Foreign Minister in the HAMAGUCHI Cabinet. Premier HAMAGUCHI approved and recommended reductions in the Army and Navy budgets. The aforesaid Premier HAMAGUCHI pushed through the ratification of the London Naval Treaty and in doing so created strong opposition by the military as said military felt that the aforesaid HAMAGUCHI had transgressed the Navy Chief of Staff's prerogative of supreme command.

I was on the platform of the Tokyo Railway Station when the aforesaid Premier HAMAGUCHI was shot by a silly young man named SAGOYA. I was not standing with the Premier but was some distance away. I rushed over to the Premier to help him and I saw them take this young assassin in custody. Later, owing to the physical incapacity of the aforesaid Premier HAMAGUCHI, I was acting Prime Minister and caused a thorough investigation to be made of the shooting of Premier HAMAGUCHI. This investigation established the motive of the assassin to be dissatisfaction with the Naval Disarmament Policy of Premier HAMAGUCHI.

I carried on for awhile as acting Prime Minister, hoping that the aforesaid Premier HAMAGUCHI would recover from his wounds so that he could resume active participation in the government but instead he got worse and it became necessary for the HAMAGUCHI Cabinet to resign.

I became Foreign Minister in the succeeding Cabinet of Baron WAKATSUKE, Reijiro. The foreign policy of the aforesaid WAKATSUKE Cabinet was definitely conciliatory and cooperative so far as international affairs were concerned. However, a great strain was put on this foreign policy in September 1931 by the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident. Shortly before the Manchurian Incident, as Foreign Minister, I received confidential reports and information that the Kwantung Army was engaged in amassing troops and bringing up ammunition and material for some military purpose, and knew from such reports that action of some kind was contemplated by the military clique. The WAKATSUKE Cabinet and myself, as Foreign Minister, following the Manchurian Incident made every effort to control the Army and prevent further territorial expansion but were unable to do so. I, as Foreign Minister, was bitterly assailed in the press and by ultra-nationalists and the militarists for "SHIDEHARA's weak-kneed foreign policy." These aforesaid groups were clamoring for "a positive policy" in Manchuria. This was a great embarrassment to the WAKATSUKE Cabinet. As a result of the

inability of the WAKATSUKE Cabinet to control the Army and suppress their expansion in connection with the aforesaid incident the Cabinet was forced to resign.

/s/ K. Shidehara
SHIDEHARA, Kijuro

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above-named SHIDEHARA, Kijuro, at Premier's Residence, Tokyo, Japan, this 17th day of June, 1946.

Harryman Dorsey
Captain, JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Ben Ostula 38668331, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named SHIDEHARA, Kijuro in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said SHIDEHARA, Kijuro stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said SHIDEHARA, Kijuro was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Ben Ostula